747 His Highness 'adopted' 5 Polish refugee children in British India for a period of one year. The War Aid Committee similarly 'adopted' 10 of these children for the same period.

His Highness has also contributed large sums of money from his Privy Purse for particular purposes connected with or arising out of the war.

• 722 His Highness visited the Middle East in October 1941 and inspected his own as well as other Indian troops there. He broadcast a message from there calling upon the people in this country to put forth further efforts in the war and inspiring them with hope in the ultimate triumph of justice.

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656 Long before the regulation of prices of foodstuffs was
455 introduced in many parts of India, His Highness' Government had set up the Food Control Department for the control and distribution of *shali*, the chief staple of the Valley. The arrangement continues to the present day and *shali* is sold to consumers in Srinagar at fixed rates in Government controlled sale centres. Over a year ago, however, the soaring prices of other foodstuffs and the general food situation in the valley, as a whole, caused much anxiety, and His Highness' Government had to adopt several measures to relieve the situation. The measures included the fixation of the maximum sale prices of food-grains, restrictions on the movement of food-grains, restrictions on the export of potatoes, *til*, *sarson*, *alsi* and oil extracted therefrom and the opening of shops in Srinagar and certain towns and villages in the *mofassils*, where the poor classes of people could get grains at fixed rates. Food-grains were made available in deficit areas at low prices, at a considerable loss to the Government. Boards of Food Control, with representatives of different communities and interests, were constituted in both the provinces to deal with questions of policy relating to food-grains. Rationing of other important essentials of life, like fuel and sugar, was introduced. A Department of Supplies was set up.

657 Early in January 1943, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur placed at the disposal of the Government a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 to serve as the nucleus of a Fund for

lower scale. The Shahir canal was thrown open in the Jammu Province but its effect on population were entirely negative themselves in the adjustment decades. Percentage increases of 2.1 and 17.3 for Jammu and Kashmir Provinces and 9.6 for the entire State for the decade is quite reasonable and reliable. 161 132

Rainfall.—The normal rainfall was generally better than in the previous decade. The conditions of crops in the State during the decade was about the average on the whole with the exception of the extraordinarily dry year 1918 which caused serious distress in some tehsils of the Jammu Province. The greatest suffering was occasioned in the tehsils of Kotli, Mirpur, Samba and Poonch Ilaqas and in a slightly lesser degree in the tehsils of Kishtwar, Bhaderwar, Bhadrawa of the Udhampur district. Liberal Taccavi advances were made through the Co-operative Department in the district of Mirpur for purchase of grain and cattle, among whom the mortality was very heavy, owing to dearth of fodder and desertion of the population to neighbouring districts in search of livelihood. State efforts supplemented by private charity succeeded in partially easing the situation, but the adverse effects of this long drawn suffering had an important bearing on the movement of population in the affected tracts. The total amount of Revenue suspended during the decade was Rs. 196,987 of which Rs. 120,750 was suspended in the Jammu Province".

The suspensions in the Frontier Districts and Kashmir Province amounted to Rs. 3,023 and Rs. 70,000 respectively while remissions throughout the State aggregated to Rs. 21,000.

Irrigational Extensions.—The decade witnessed an increase in the number of canals by 2, in total mileage by 60 and in irrigated area by 15,650 acres which is a fairly satisfactory record of favourable improvement, greater share of improvement falling to the lot of Jammu Province as in Kashmir the natural water courses fed by snows require little further help by artificial means. In Jammu the Shahir canal with 6 distributaries was completed in 1913; the Bhaderwar canal in Kashmir district was completed in 1917 and Uth canal was started in 1919, while 8 distributaries from Upper Jhelum canal were laid out in Mirpur in 1916. 161 312 [487]

Public Health.—Out of the total 88,204 deaths during the decade influenza levied the heaviest toll (44,314 deaths) by causing 50 per cent. of the total mortality in 1918 and the disease held away over both the provinces. Kashmir was free from Plague while Jammu had 9 visitations of this epidemic resulting in the total mortality of 6,134 persons in the decade. Cholera did its usual havoc in Kashmir and took away 18,084 lives—the 1919 attack being the most virulent. Small-Pox inflicted considerable mortality both in Jammu and Kashmir Provinces, the total number of deaths being 16,405. It is regretted that the absence of reliable vital statistics renders comparison with the past Census difficult. 161 169

Prices and Wages.—The exceptional feature of the decade was the abnormal rise in prices and wages during the War and the Post-War years as against the easy prices and steady conditions prevailing prior to 1914. The prices of food stuffs increased by 150 to 200 per cent. on account of the War and the wages of artisans and labourers were universally more than doubled. A mason who received a daily wage of -/8/- could not be had for less than Rs. 1 or even Rs. 1/4/-. 458

Apprehending that the export of large quantities of food grains from the State to outside places where higher prices were obtainable will lead to intolerable famine conditions the State had to place an embargo on the export of wheat, maize and rice. It is, however, unfortunate that the number of deaths in the War is not given in the Report on the absence of the able bodied population from their homes for a period of five years and the deaths of 161 722

[Errata: add "50" before "show"; cf. errata sheet, p. 329, category 116 -- Analyst]

people in the person of their free members very strong factors in ordering the destinies and the affairs of this world naturally have been most decisive on the populations of the Jammu Province which occupies the centre of the State territory. This factor greatly accounts for the small percentage increase of only 27 per cent in the Jammu Province during the decade 1911-1921. In view of the above circumstances, the increase of 31 per cent for the whole State during the decade was fairly satisfactory as compared with the average increase of 12 per cent for the whole of India.

V. THE CONDITIONS OF THE PAST DECADE 1921-1931.

132. 53.—From a survey of the census past we turn our attention to the closing decade 1921-1931 with which our Report is principally concerned and deal with a general review of the agricultural, economic and material conditions of this period in some greater detail upon these matters a settlement officer's with the growth of population. The quantity of normal rainfall during the decade has already been shown by districts in the Subsidiary Table I and by tehsils in the marginal table under the paragraph dealing with Density and Rainfall. What remains now is to trace the course of rainfall during the ten years drawing attention to the exceptionally dry years as also to the good rainfall periods. Instead of giving a general account of these conditions for the whole decade it would be more advantageous to discuss them year to year so far as possible in order to single out the good and bad years and avoid the confusion which the missing element of such a long period involves. In preparing this brief account Imperial Gazetteer, Provincial Gazetteer and Annual Administration Reports of the State as also the Departmental notes obtained from the Heads of the State Departments for purposes of the Census.

The 1921 Census having been taken on the 18th of March 1921 corresponding to the Bikrmi date 4th Chet 1977 our census should naturally commence with the Bikrmi year 1978 but as only one combined Administration Report of the State was issued for three years 1977, 1978 and 1979, it will be advantageous to take these three years together and so also the subsequent triennial period till the adoption of Fasli year by the Highest Commission with effect from the 1st of Katik 1986.

Triennium 1977, 1978 and 1979 (1921, 1922 and 1923).—*Harvest crops and general conditions of the people.*—In the Jammu Province the rainfall was untimely and deficient during 1977 causing damage to both the *Rabbi* and *Kharif* crops, but in 1978 and 1979 it was fairly distributed, timely and sufficient and in the last year the condition of crops was well above the average. In Kashmir the rainfall in 1977 was below normal and not well distributed partially damaging the *Rabbi* crops; in 1978 also unfair distribution damaged the *Kharif* crops; but in 1979 conditions of the crops improved by the advent of timely and sufficient rains. In Gilgit the abnormal rainfall and early snowfall of 1977 brought considerable misfortune to the *Rabbi* and *Kharif* crops though this very year gave equal distribution of rain and snowfall resulting in a good crop in Ladakh. 1978 proved, however, unpropitious as insufficient rainfall brought about a scarcity of food stuffs in Gilgit while in Ladakh crops suffered from excessive rainfall.

241 *Cultivated area.*—The total cultivated area in the State fell, from 2,036,080 acres in 1976 to 2,031,801 acres in 1977 and 2,031,424 acres in 1978 but rose to 2,050,054 acres in 1979.

164 435 *General condition of the people: Kashmir Province.*—The general health of the people was fairly good as there was no epidemic and the birth-rate was higher than the death rate. Prices ruled high in 1977 and experienced a slight fall in subsequent years 1978 and 1979. The rise in wages benefitted the labourers who, when free from agriculture took to labour. The number of live-stock increased.